

Enhancement of LPG Production

2993. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas being utilized in different parts of the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether LPG supply is not meeting the demand and long queue is there for obtaining gas connections/gas cylinders;

(c) what quantity of gas being processed into Liquefied Petroleum Gas and what are the plans of Government for increasing LPG production to meet the full demand in the country during the year 2006-2010; and

(d) what amount of subsidy is being paid by Government on production of LPG during the last three years, till date, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The estimated quantity of natural gas utilized in different States as assessed by GAIL (India) Limited is give in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(b) At present 3 Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have a total of 916 lakh consumers in the country as on October 1, 2006. They have released 69.07 lakh LPG connections from April 2005 to September 2006. New connections are generally available easily for genuine domestic customers. As on 1.11.2006, there is a waiting list of 63,543 for new LPG connections with the LPG distributors of OMCs. The waiting list is expected to be cleared by the end of December 2006.

At present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country. LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. However, OMCs have reported a backlog of three or four days in the State of Tamil Nadu due to shutdown of refinery. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the State of Tamil Nadu by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours.

(c) Approximately 52.35 MMSCMD of natural gas was processed in various LPG production plants of ONGG, GAIL and OIL during the current year; this is besides LPG being processed in refineries. The plans to increase the LPG production, *inter alia*, include refinery expansion, enhancing LPG storages through underground caverns and raising inventory levels at refinery from 12-13 days to 15-20 days. Besides the above, the imports are being stepped up to meet the deficit.

(d) Under recoveries from sale of LPG in the last three years are as below:

Under Recovery	2003-04	2004-05 (Provisional)	2005-06 (Estimated)	April-Sept. '06
Domestic LPG	5,523	8,362	10,246	5,030

Out of the under recovery, the subsidy paid by Government on sale of domestic LPG during the last 3 years and during the first half of the current financial year is given below:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	From Government Budget
2003-04	3635.02
2004-05	1783.64
2005-06 (Provisional)	1604.77
2006-07 (April-September 06—Estimated)	754.07

Statement

The estimated quantity of natural gas utilized in different States as assessed by 'GAIL'

State	Total (in MMSCMD)
Gujarat	32.92
Maharashtra	10.39
Madhya Pradesh	4.03
Rajasthan	4.58
Haryana	1.35

State	Total (in MMSCMD)
Uttar Pradesh	17.09
Andhra Pradesh	6.19
Tamil Nadu	2.74
Tripura	1.40
Assam	5.78
Delhi	4.76
Pondicherry	0.25
TOTAL:	91.48

Overseas study visit for prevention of adulteration

2994. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint team of senior officers of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was sent to Australia and Malaysia sometime in 2002-03 to study the enforcement system which the oil companies in those countries had adopted to prevent the adulteration of petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, the details of findings of the team after the visit; and

(c) what decision Government have taken on the recommendations made by the above mentioned team, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In 2002, a delegation led by the then Director General, Anti-Adulteration Cell (AAC) led a delegation to Australia and Malaysia to study the enforcement systems and industry practices to prevent adulteration of Petrol and Diesel in those countries. The principal recommendation of the delegation was a to introduce marker in all potential adulterants all over the country in a phased manner. It was also recommended that since PDS kerosene is subsidized and large quantities of it are reportedly being siphoned out from the distribution system for adulteration of Petrol/Diesel, immediate implementation of marketing PDS kerosene be done in consultation with Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).